Retired Judge, High Court of Andhra Pradesh, as Commissioner of Inquiry to inquire into the incident.

(h) As per information received from various States and UTs 50.34 lacs acres of ceiling surplus land, 153.22 lacs acres of Government wasteland and 16.57 lacs acres of Bhoodan land has been distributed among rural poor. These include 5.93 lacs acres of ceiling surplus land, 43.93 lacs acres of Government wasteland 1.10 lacs acres of Bhoodan land distributed in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

The Government under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) has launched the Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) Programme to assist cities and towns for taking up housing and infrastructural facilities for the urban poor in 63 selected cities and the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) for taking up housing and slum upgradation programmes in non-Mission cities. Both BSUP and IHSDP Schemes are under implementation since December, 2005. The duration of JNNURM is seven years beginning from the year 2005-06.

In so far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, 16 projects under the BSUP programme and 26 projects under the IHSDP programme have been approved and which are at various stages of implementation.

Apart from the above, the Andhra Pradesh Government has reported that they have launched a programme titled "INDIRAMMA" for providing pucca house for all eligible in a phased manner in three years from 2006-07 onwards.

New rules for protection of wild tigers

*62. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any request to China for lifting the ban on trading in tiger parts;

(b) if so, the steps which are being taken to protect wild tiger from depletion;

(c) whether any attempt has been made to amend the existing rules in this regard; and

(d) whether there is a proposal to frame new rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No Sir. In fact, India has banned trade in the body parts (and their derivatives) of tiger and other wild animals included in Schedule I and Part II of Schedule II of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Hence, requesting China to lift the ban on trade in tiger parts does not arise.

(b) The initiatives taken by the Government of India for conservation of wild animals including the tiger are given the Statement (See below).

(c) and (d) The Wild Life Protection Act, 1972 has been amended during 2006 to provide enabling provisions for creating the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau, which have already been constituted for strengthening tiger conservation and protection of our wildlife. The penalties for offences relating to tiger reserves have been made more stringent.

Statement

Steps taken by the Government to protect wild tiger from depletion

Legal steps

1. Amendment of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for providing enabling provisions for constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau. The punishment in cases of offence within a tiger reserve has been enhanced. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that has been used for committing any wild life offence.

Administrative steps

2. Strengthening of antipoaching activities, including special strategy for monsoon patrolling, by providing funding support to Tiger Reserve States, as proposed by them, for deployment of antipoaching squads involving ex-army personnel/home guards, apart from workforce comprising of local people, in addition to strengthening of communication/wireless facilities.

3. Constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority with effect from 4.09.2006, for strengthening tiger conservation by, *inter alia*, ensuring normative standards in tiger reserve management, preparation of reserve specific tiger conservation plan, laying down annual/audit report before Parliament, constituting State level Steering Committees under the Chairmanship of Chief Ministers and establishment of Tiger Conservation Foundation.

4. Constitution of a multidisciplinary Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau) with effect from 6.6.2007 comprising of officers from Police, Forest, Customs and other enforcement agencies to effectively control illegal trade in wildlife.

5. In principle approval accorded for declaring eight new Tiger Reserves.

Financial steps

6. Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, *viz.* Project Tiger and Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals.

International Cooperation

7. India has a Memorandum of Understanding with Nepal on controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife and conservation, apart from a protocol on tiger conservation with China.

8. A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.

9. During the 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES, which was held from 3rd to 15th June, 2007 at The Hague, India introduced a resolution along with China, Nepal and the Russian Federation, which contains directions to Parties with operations breeding tigers on a commercial scale for restricting

such captive populations to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers. The resolution was adopted with minor amendments. Further, India made an intervention appealing to China to phase out tiger farming, and eliminate stockpiles of Asian big cats body parts and derivatives. The importance of continuing the ban on trade of body parts of tigers was emphasized.

Venue crunch for wedding ceremonies

*63. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Capital city is reeling under severe venue crunch during peak wedding season;

(b) whether Government are also aware that people have started organising weddings on roads which causing trouble to residents in that area;

(c) whether Government propose to appeal to the High Court to lift ban on farm houses and banquet halls to solemnise marriages; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) has reported that the facilities are inadequate during peak season. As per information received from local bodies, details regarding availability of authorised banquet halls, community centres, parks etc. for wedding ceremonies and other social functions in Delhi are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) No permission is accorded for organising weddings on roads.

(c) and (d) The High Court of Delhi *vide* order dated 17th February, 2006 directed that only in those farm houses where the metal road is 60 feet wide, weddings shall be permitted subject to meeting the requirements of the draft guidelines with regard to parking space, noise pollution, sanitary conditions etc. The policy framed by GNCTD is under consideration before the High Court. The next date of hearing is 10.10.2007. The High Court imposed a ban on banquet halls in non-conforming areas and the ban is not applicable to banquet halls in conforming areas.

Statement

Details regarding availability of Banquet Halls, Community Centres, parks etc. in Delhi

Local Body	Banquet Halls/ Barat Ghars	Community Centres/Halls	Authorised Parks*	Total
NDMC	11	17	25	53
MCD	-	200	732	932
DDA	14	89	60	163
TOTAL:	25	306	817	1148

* As per Supreme Court's order one park is booked for 10 days in a month only and the remaining 20-21 days is left open for public.

Apart from the above, hotel sites/commercial areas/institutional areas also provide for marriage functions.